



February 3, 2020

Commissioner Robert G. Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Michael Kubayanda, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Mark Acton
Commissioner Ann Fisher
Commissioner Ashley Poling
Postal Regulatory Commission

RE: Docket RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postal rates at several times the rate of inflation. These increases—which are estimated to reach 7 percent per year, or 40 percent compounded over five years, will have a negative impact on our ability to carry out the Foodbank’s mission of leading the effort to eliminate hunger in our community. In service of this mission, last fiscal year, the Foodbank distributed over 14.4 million meals to individuals experiencing food insecurity in our community, including nearly 1,800 children enrolled in our Backpack Program.

There are 160,000 individuals experiencing food insecurity in our community, and 40,000 of these individuals are children. In order to keep moving toward our vision of a hunger-free community, our organization relies heavily on direct mail for much of our fundraising and communication efforts surrounding our work of feeding hungry children, families, seniors and veterans in our service area. The proposed change would greatly devalue our use of postal mail and would inevitably lead us to a further migration from mail to alternative means of fundraising.

Given the negative impact this proposal will have on our organization, the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore urges the Postal Regulatory Commission to reconsider this proposal.

Sincerely,

Ruth Jones Nichols, PhD
President and CEO
Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore